

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 786

To require the Secretary of Transportation to review laws relating to the illegal passing of school buses and to execute a public safety messaging campaign relating to illegal passing of school buses, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 17 (legislative day, MARCH 16), 2021

Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Transportation to review laws relating to the illegal passing of school buses and to execute a public safety messaging campaign relating to illegal passing of school buses, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Stop for School Buses
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ILLEGAL PASSING OF SCHOOL BUSES.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
2 means the Department of Transportation.

3 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Transportation.

5 (b) REVIEW OF ILLEGAL PASSING LAWS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
8 shall—

9 (A) prepare a compilation of illegal passing
10 laws in all States, including—

11 (i) levels of enforcement and penalties
12 and enforcement issues relating to those
13 laws; and

14 (ii) the impact of those laws on illegal
15 passing of school buses in each State;

16 (B) review existing State laws that may in-
17 hibit effective school bus loading zone counter-
18 measures, including—

19 (i) laws requiring camera visibility of
20 the face of a driver for enforcement action;

21 (ii) laws that may reduce stop-arm
22 camera effectiveness;

23 (iii) laws requiring an officer to wit-
24 ness an event for enforcement actions re-
25 lating to the event; and

(iv) lack of primary enforcement for
texting-and-driving offenses;

(D) on completion of the compilation under subparagraph (A), prepare recommendations regarding best practices for effective approaches to address illegal passing of school buses.

14 (c) PUBLIC SAFETY MESSAGING CAMPAIGN.—

1 (2) CONSULTATION.—In developing materials
2 for the campaign under paragraph (1), the Secretary
3 shall consult with—

4 (A) public and private school bus industry
5 representatives; and
6 (B) States.

7 (3) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall periodically
8 update materials for the campaign under paragraph
9 (1).

10 (d) REVIEW OF TECHNOLOGIES.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
12 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
13 shall review and evaluate the effectiveness of various
14 technologies to enhance school bus safety, includ-
15 ing—

16 (A) cameras;
17 (B) audible warning systems;
18 (C) enhanced lighting; and
19 (D) other technological solutions.

20 (2) CONTENT.—The review and evaluation
21 under paragraph (1)—

22 (A) shall include an evaluation of, as appli-
23 cable—
24 (i) the costs of new equipment;

(iii) advanced technologies sur-
rounding loading zone safety;

(iv) motion-activated detection systems that are capable of—

(II) alerting the operator of a school bus of the road users described in subclause (I); and

(A) manufacturers of school buses or similar vehicles;

24 (B) manufacturers of various technologies;
25 and

(C) school bus industry representatives.

5 (e) REVIEW OF DRIVER EDUCATION MATERIALS.—

12 (f) REVIEW OF OTHER SAFETY ISSUES.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
14 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
15 shall—

(vi) school bus stop locations in rural areas; and

6 (2) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall publish
7 the report prepared under paragraph (1)(B) on the
8 website of the Department.

